



**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**BILLING CODE: 3510-22**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; U.S. - Canada Albacore Treaty Reporting System**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before [Insert date 60 days after date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Adrienne Thomas, PRA Officer, NOAA, 151 Patton Avenue, Room 159, Asheville, NC 28801 (or via the Internet at [PRAComments@doc.gov](mailto:PRAComments@doc.gov)). All comments received are part of the public record. Comments will generally be posted without change. All Personally Identifiable Information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Shannon Penna,

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), West Coast Region (WCR) Long Beach Office, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802, (562) 980-4238 or *shannon.penna@noaa.gov*.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### *I. Abstract*

This request is for an extension of a current information collection.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), West Coast Region (WCR), manages the United States (U.S.) - Canada Albacore Tuna Treaty of 1981 (Treaty). Owners of vessels that fish from U.S. West Coast ports for albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) are required to notify the NMFS WCR of their desire to be on the list of vessels provided to Canada each year indicating vessels eligible to fish for albacore tuna in waters under the jurisdiction of Canada. Additionally, vessel operators are required to report in advance their intention to fish in Canadian waters prior to crossing the maritime border as well as to mark their fishing vessels to facilitate enforcement of the effort limits under the Treaty. Vessel operators are also required to maintain and submit a logbook of all catch and fishing effort. The regulations implementing the reporting and vessel marking requirements under the Treaty are at 50 CFR part 300.172-300.176. If a vessel enters into Canadian waters without adhering to these regulations, they will be in violation of the treaty and Canadian enforcement may issue a fine or a warning.

The estimated burden below includes hours to complete the logbook requirement, although it is assumed that most if not all of the respondents already complete the required logbook under the mandatory West Coast Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan

(HMS FMP), OMB Control No. 0648-0223. Duplicate reporting under the Treaty and HMS FMP is not required. Most years, there will be much less fishing (and thus less reporting) under the Treaty than the level on which the estimate is based.

## *II. Method of Collection*

Requests to be placed on the vessel eligibility list may be made in writing via mail, fax, email, telephone, or through online registration if available. Communications to comply with ‘hail in’ and ‘hail out’ requirements are made via ship to shore radio or via telephone and are compiled in an electronic database by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Summaries of hail reports are provided to NMFS on a periodic basis. Vessel marking requirements entail painting the letter ‘U’ immediately after the U.S. Coast Guard documentation identification number or state registration number already on the vessel. Logbooks are maintained in pre-printed paper format and submitted via mail.

## *III. Data*

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0492.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission (extension of a current information collection).

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 135.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 5 minutes for the request to be placed on the eligible list per year; 2 hours and 55 minutes for required vessel markings; 10 minutes for logbook entries; 5 minutes for each set of two hail reports for border crossings per year. .

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 840 hours.*

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$2311*

*IV. Request for Comments*

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer,  
Commerce Department.*

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